



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
www.epa.gov/region08

JUN 02 2017

Ref: 8ENF-W-WO

CERTIFIED MAIL – 7007 1490 0001 4785 8135
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Jack H. Stark, President and COO
Continental Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 269000
Oklahoma City, OK 73126

Re: Request for Information Pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C.
§ 1318(a); NRC Report Nos. 1102065, 1176364, and 1178419; SD Spill ID Nos 2014.246
and 2015.101; ND Incident 20170423091440

Dear Mr. Stark:

The Environmental Protection Agency is investigating the status of discharges of crude oil and/or produced water that occurred at the following locations:

NRC	State ID	Spill date	Location	County	State
1102065	2014.246	11/13/2014	SBRRU 23-26H; 45.752143; -103.596161	Harding	SD
	2015.101	6/ 5/2015	SBRRU 23-32; 45.73924, -103.66109	Harding	SD
1176364 1178419	20170423 091440	4/22/2017	Evelyn 14-24NH; 46.29501, -103.92076	Bowman	ND

The reports we received regarding these discharges indicate that the facilities from which the discharges occurred are owned and/or operated by Continental Resources, Inc. (Continental). Pursuant to section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a), the EPA has the authority to request information pertinent to carrying out its responsibilities under the CWA.

Our purpose in sending this letter is to request that Continental provide information to assist the EPA in further evaluating the discharges. The EPA is requesting, pursuant to the above-referenced statutory authority, that you respond to the enclosed Request for Information (RFI) for the discharges. Please answer each question in the enclosure, including subparts of questions. The RFI Statement of Certification must be signed by a duly authorized official of your company.

Although the information requested must be submitted to the EPA, you may be entitled to assert a business confidentiality claim pursuant to the regulations set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2. If the EPA determines the information you have designated meets the criteria in 40 C.F.R. § 2.208, the information will be disclosed only to the extent and by means of the procedures specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. Unless a confidentiality claim is asserted at the time the requested information is submitted, the EPA may make the information available to the public without further notice to you.

Section 309 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319, provides for administrative and civil penalties of up to \$52,414 per day of violation for failure to comply with this RFI. Please be further advised that the submission of false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations may subject you to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

This RFI is not subject to the approval requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, *et seq.*

Enclosed with this letter is a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) information sheet, *U.S. EPA Small Business Resources*, containing information on compliance assistance resources and tools available to small businesses. SBREFA does not eliminate your responsibility to comply with the Clean Water Act or respond to this RFI.

Your response to the information request must be submitted within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter to:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Donna K. Inman (8ENF-W-WO)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Ms. Inman can assist you with any questions regarding this RFI; she may be reached at (303) 312-6201. When calling, please refer to your company's name and the NRC Report number. An electronic version of the RFI is available upon request. Contact Ms. Inman at the number above or at inman.donnak@epa.gov for a copy. Inquiries of a legal nature should be directed to Sheldon Muller at (303) 312-6916.

Sincerely,



James H. Eppers, Supervisory Attorney
Regulatory Enforcement Unit
Legal Enforcement Program

Sincerely,



Kenneth Champagne, Chief
OPA and Wetlands Enforcement Unit
Technical Enforcement Program

Enclosures

1. Request for Information
2. Instructions and Definitions
3. Statement of Certification Form
4. Small Business Resources Information Sheet

Instructions

1. Please provide separate responses to each and every question for each of the incidents such that your response to each and every question for each incident will be contained in a standalone document.
2. Please provide a separate narrative response to each and every question and subpart of a question set forth in this Request for Information.
3. Precede each answer with the number of the question to which it corresponds.
4. If the question is not applicable to the incident, please indicate N/A and state why the question is not applicable.
5. If information or documents not known or not available to you as of the date of submission of a response to this Request for Information should later become known or available to you, you must supplement your response to the EPA. Moreover, should you find, at any time after the submission of your response, that any portion of the submitted information is false or misrepresents the truth, you must notify the EPA of this fact as soon as possible and provide the EPA with a corrected response.
6. For each document produced in response to this RFI, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the question to which it corresponds.
7. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively, as necessary, to bring within the scope of this Request for Information any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
8. All questions asked in the past tense should be interpreted to apply to the present as well as the past.
9. Words in the masculine shall be construed in the feminine, and vice versa, and words in the singular shall be construed in the plural, and vice versa, where appropriate, in the context of a particular question or questions.
10. The Statement of Certification must be signed by a responsible official of the owner or operator.
11. If you wish to assert a business confidentiality claim pursuant to the regulations set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2 covering any portion of the information submitted, you must assert such claim at the time you submit your response. You may assert such claim by including a stamped or typed notice employing language such as "Company Confidential," "Trade Secret," "Proprietary," etc. If the EPA determines the information you have designated meets the criteria in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, § 2.208, the information will be disclosed only to the extent and by means of the procedures specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. Unless a confidentiality claim is asserted at the time the requested information is submitted, the EPA may make the information available to the public without further notice to you.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to the following words as they appear in the questions:

1. The terms "you," "your" or "Respondent" shall mean the addressee of this Request for Information, the addressee's officers, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors, assigns, and agents.
2. The term "describe" shall mean provide in detail all information you are aware of that may relate in any way to the information, person, or document referenced.
3. The terms "document" and "documents" shall mean any writing, recording, or stored information, and includes, but is not limited to, writings of any kind, formal or informal, whether or not wholly or partially in handwriting, including by way of illustration, and not by way of limitation, any invoice, manifest, bill of lading, receipt, endorsement, check, bank draft, cancelled check, deposit slip, withdrawal slip, order, correspondence, record book, minutes, memorandum of telephone and other conversations, including meetings, agreements and the like, diary, calendar, desk pad, scrapbook, notebook, bulletin, circular, form, pamphlet, statement, journal, postcard, letter, telegram, telex, fax, email, report, notice, message, analysis, comparison, graph, chart, interoffice or intra-office communications, photostat or other copy of any documents, microfilm or other film record, any photograph, sound recording or any type of device, any punch card, disc or disc pack; any tape or other type of memory generally associated with computers and data processing (together with the programming instructions and other written material necessary to use such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory and together with printouts of such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory); and, (a) every copy of each document which is not an exact duplicate of a document which is produced, (b) every copy which has any writing, figure or notation, annotation or the like on it, (c) drafts, (d) attachments to or enclosures with any document, and (e) every document referred to in any other document.
4. The term "facility" shall mean "any mobile or fixed, onshore or offshore building, property, parcel, lease, structure, installation, equipment, pipe, or pipeline (other than a vessel or a public vessel) used in oil well drilling operations, oil production, oil refining, oil storage, oil gathering, oil processing, oil transfer, oil distribution, and oil waste treatment, or in which oil is used, as described in Appendix A to this [Part 112]. The boundaries of a facility depend on several site-specific factors, including but not limited to, the ownership or operation of buildings, structures, and equipment on the same site and types of activity at the site. Contiguous or non-contiguous buildings, properties, parcels, leases, structures, installations, pipes, or pipelines under the ownership or operation of the same person may be considered separate facilities. Only this definition governs whether a facility is subject to this part."
5. The term "discharge" includes, but is not limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping, but excludes discharges in compliance with a permit under section 402 of the CWA.
6. The term "identify" means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person's name, present or last known business address and business telephone number, present or last known

home address and home telephone number, and present or last known job title, position or business.

7. The term “identify” means, with respect to a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including a sole proprietorship), to set forth its full name, address, legal form (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership), organization, if any, and a brief description of its business.
8. The term “identify” means, with respect to a document, to provide its customary business description, its date, its number, if any (invoice or purchase order number), the author and recipient(s), and to describe the substance or the subject matter.
9. The term “oil” means oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil.
10. The terms “owner” and “operator” mean any person owning or operating an onshore facility or an offshore facility, and in the case of any abandoned offshore facility, the person who owned or operated or maintained the facility immediately prior to such abandonment.
11. The term “person” includes an individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership.
12. The term “pollutant” means dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water. This term does not mean (A) “sewage from vessels or a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel of the Armed Forces” within the meaning of 33 U.S.C. §1322 of this title; or (B) water, gas, or other material which is injected into a well to facilitate production of oil or gas, or water derived in association with oil or gas production and disposed of in a well, if the well used either to facilitate production or for disposal purposes is approved by authority of the State in which the well is located, and if such State determines that such injection or disposal will not result in the degradation of ground or surface water resources.
13. The term “sheen” means an iridescent appearance on the surface of water.
14. The term “sludge” means an aggregate of oil or oil and other matter of any kind in any form other than dredged spoil having a combined specific gravity equivalent to or greater than water.
15. The terms “Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan,” “SPCC Plan,” or “Plan” means the document required by 40 C.F.R. §112.3 that details the equipment, workforce, procedures, and steps to prevent, control, and provide adequate countermeasures to a discharge.
16. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in section 311 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321, or the regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Part 110, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall apply.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This information is requested pursuant to section 308 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a). This Request for Information (RFI) is not subject to the approval requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Instructions: Instructions are included in the instructions portion of this RFI. Please refer to the definitions portion of this RFI for defined terms in this document.

Please provide responses to the following information requests for each of the discharges that are the subject of the NRC Report Nos., SD Spill ID Nos., and ND Incident referenced above, and that are more fully described in the letter transmitting this RFI.

1. Describe the facility (e.g., flowline, gathering line, tank, well and/or tank battery, truck, railcar, etc.) from which the oil or other pollutant was discharged (hereinafter referred to as "Facility"). For each Facility:
 - a. Give the lease name and number.
 - b. Provide the API numbers and/or other numbers for all wells associated with each Facility.
 - c. Provide the date of first production of the well that was the source of the discharge or associated with the Facility that was the source of the discharge.
 - d. Provide the spud date for the well that was the source of the discharge or associated with the Facility that was the source of the discharge. Provide the date of the most recent well completion prior to the discharge. Include a diagram of the well completion details.
 - e. Describe the operations and all business activities conducted at each Facility.
2. Identify the current owner and operator (and percentage ownership interest) of the Facility, and provide the current owner's Dun & Bradstreet number. Also, identify all owners and operators of the Facility for the last two years, and the parent corporation or other entity (if any) of the current owner and operator. If the current owner is not the original owner of the well, also state when the current owner purchased the Facility and identify the person from whom the Facility was purchased.
3. Provide the following information for the current owner and operator, the parent of the current owner and operator, and the owner and operator at the time of the discharge (if not the current owner or operator).
 - a. Type of business unit (e.g., corporation, partnership, LLC, etc.).
 - b. The date the business was incorporated or organized. The date the business first acquired ownership in or begin operating the Facility?
 - c. In what state was the business first incorporated or organized, and in what state is it authorized to do business? Provide copies of all documents filed with the state where the

business was incorporated or organized since the time of incorporation or organization until today, and all such documents filed with the State of South Dakota.

- d. If the business is a corporation, identify all of its corporate officers. If the business is a limited liability company, identify all of its members and managing members/managers. If the business is a partnership, identify all of its limited and general partners.
4. If the owner and operator of the Facility are different, describe the relationship between them (i.e. employee, subcontractor, lessee, etc.). State when the current operator first began operating the Facility, and when the operator at the time of the discharge first began operating the Facility (if different than the current operator).
5. State the time and date of the discharge and how this was determined.
 - a. When was the discharge discovered (time and date)?
 - b. Identify the individual who first discovered the discharge and how that individual discovered it.
 - c. Describe how long the discharge continued.
 - d. State the weather conditions, including temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, etc. during the discharge.
 - e. Provide all documents that relate in any way to your responses to this question and its subparts.
6. Describe the oil or other pollutant discharged, including the chemical name, formula, and specific gravity. If the discharge was a mixture, give the percentages of oil or other pollutant in the mixture or solution. Provide copies of the Safety Data Sheets, if available.
7. If the oil or other pollutant discharged is a hazardous substance under section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), identify that hazardous substance.
8. Describe the quantity of each oil or other pollutant that was discharged, the quantity of each oil or other pollutant that entered or may have entered any water or its adjoining shorelines, and how those quantities were determined.
 - a. Provide all documents that relate in any way to your determination of such quantities.
9. Provide copies of the analyses of any samples of the discharged oil or other pollutant collected and analyzed, and any other analyses that were conducted as part of the response to the discharge. Describe the locations from which the samples were collected and the time the samples were collected, and identify who collected the samples and the laboratory that conducted the analyses.
10. Provide details on the specific location of the discharge, including:
 - a. The latitude, longitude, datum, county and state.

- b. The street address and city, if applicable.
 - c. The township, range, quarter-sections and fractions for rural areas.
11. Describe the land status (i.e. fee, trust, tribal, federal, or allotted) of any lands impacted by the discharge if the discharge occurred within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation.
12. State if the oil or other pollutant discharged reached or threatened to reach any waterway or body of water (water) or a water's adjoining shoreline, or any drainage leading to that water, including any wetlands, marshes or sewers. If it did:
- a. Provide the name of that water and drainage leading to that water, and describe it, including its width and depth, flow, direction, and condition at time of discharge (*e.g.*, low, flooded, quiet, turbulent, and dry).
 - b. State each use of the water (*e.g.*, drinking, agriculture, ranching, recreation, commerce).
 - c. Describe the overland pathway(s) from the specific source within the Facility to the water and to any drainage connecting to that water, including distance, direction, and elevation. Provide diagrams and topographic or other maps.
 - d. State the quantity of oil or other pollutant that reached the water and how the amount was determined.
 - e. State the quantity of oil or other pollutant that did not reach the water and how that amount was determined.
 - f. Beginning from the point where the oil or other pollutant reached the water to its confluence with an interstate water or navigable-in-fact water, identify the name and stream status (*e.g.*, ephemeral, intermittent, perennial) of each stream segment between the point where the oil or other pollutant reached the water and that interstate or navigable-in-fact water.
 - g. Describe any film, sheen, discoloration, or iridescent appearance that the discharge caused on the surface of any water or adjoining shorelines. Identify each person making the observation.
 - h. Describe any sludge or emulsion deposited on the adjoining shorelines or beneath the surface of the water as a result of the discharge. Identify each person making the observation.
 - i. Indicate how long the discharged oil or other pollutant remained in or on the water, as well as on any adjoining shoreline.
 - j. If you take the position that any water impacted by the discharge is not a "navigable water" as defined in section 502(7) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7), explain the basis for this position.

13. Describe any damage as a result of the discharge and provide all documents that relate in any way to such damage:
 - a. to animal life – provide the number and species of injured or dead fish, birds, animals, insects, etc.
 - b. to vegetation – describe how many feet, acres, or miles of land were affected, type of vegetation, crops, timber, forest, prairie grasses, scrub, etc.
14. List and describe any sensitive environments, wildlife habitats or refuges, endangered species, water wells, or drinking water intakes in the area. Describe the location and distance of each from the discharge.
15. Provide the date and time the flow of the discharge was diminished until the flow of the discharge was stopped.
 - a. Describe the steps taken to control and clean up the discharge, including dates and times of each measure.
 - b. Describe the steps taken to mitigate any environmental damage.
 - c. State when the cleanup operations were considered complete and all oil or other pollutant removed from any water and/or adjoining shoreline.
16. Was an agent (e.g., dispersant, bioremediation agent, surfactant) used? If it was, provide the following:
 - a. the name of agent applied.
 - b. the date and time each agent was applied.
 - c. the latitude, longitude and datum of each location where the agent was applied, and/or provide a map indicating the locations of all applications.
 - d. the method of application and amount of each agent applied.
 - e. the name of the person who applied the agent and his or her relationship to the owner and/or operator of the Facility.
 - f. Was permission from a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) granted before the application of any Agent? If so, identify the person who granted this permission, provide the date when it was granted, and provide documentation of permission being granted.
17. Describe the cause (e.g., equipment failure, operator error, inadequate procedures or maintenance, etc.) of the discharge.
 - a. With respect to the discharge that is the subject of NRC Report No. 1102065 and SD Spill ID No. 2014.246, describe the events leading up to the discharge, including:

- 1) Describe the operations at the well site at the time that any indication of a potential blowout of the well was first detected.
 - 2) Describe the daily activities of the individuals working at the well site prior to the discharge.
 - 3) Describe any procedures for when a discharge is suspected, and provide all documents regarding such procedures.
 - 4) Identify the persons who work at the well site, and specifically identify those individuals who were working at the well site during the 7-day period before the well blowout was detected and the 48 hours after the well blowout was detected.
 - 5) Describe any measures taken or changes at the Facility to prevent any future discharges from the source of the discharge.
- b. With respect to the discharges that are the subject of SD Spill ID No. 2015.101; NRC Report No. 1176364 and 1178419; and ND Incident 20170423091440 describe the events leading up to the discharge, including:
- 1) Describe the operations at the Facility at the time that any indication of a potential discharge was first detected.
 - 2) Describe the daily activities of the individuals working at the Facility prior to the discharge.
 - 3) Describe any procedures for when a discharge is suspected, and provide all documents regarding such procedures.
 - 4) Identify the persons who work at the Facility, and specifically identify those individuals who were working at the Facility during the 7-day period before the discharge was detected and the 48 hours after the discharge was detected.
 - 5) Describe any measures taken or changes at the Facility to prevent any future discharges from the source of the discharge.
18. Describe all inspections or other investigations that were conducted at the Facility in the year before the discharge. Provide all documents that relate in any way to such inspections or investigations.
19. Provide the daily production for the thirty days prior to the discharge of the well associated with the discharge. If the well had not been producing for the thirty days prior to the discharge, provide daily production for the thirty days prior to shutting in the well.
20. Describe all actions taken by anyone working for you or on your behalf, after there was any indication that there may have been a discharge or problem that could lead to a discharge, to stop the discharge. In your response:

- a. Describe each step taken by each individual from the time of the first indication that there was an issue with the Facility or any other indication that there might be a potential discharge from the Facility until the time the discharge was stopped;
 - b. Identify the persons involved and state their relationship to you;
 - c. State the date and time of each action or step taken by each person; and
 - d. Provide any documents prepared by those persons, or prepared with input from, or information supplied by, those persons, regarding such actions taken, including any logs that were generated from the time of the first indication that there was an issue with the Facility or any other indication that there might be a potential discharge from the Facility until the time when the discharge was stopped.
21. State whether there was any blowout prevention equipment on the well at the time of the discharge associated with NRC Report No. 1102065. If so, describe the equipment and its location at the time of the discharge. Provide wellhead and blowout preventer diagrams for the well associated with the discharge.
22. List the federal, state, tribal, and/or local agencies to which the discharge was reported. State the date and time of notification and the official contacted.
- a. For any notifications that were not provided immediately after the time you had knowledge of the discharge, describe why such notifications were delayed.
 - b. Identify all persons from federal, state, tribal, and/or local agencies, and those who were working for you, or on your behalf, who were present at or near the location of the discharge at the time of the discharge or during the response thereto, provide the dates they were present, and describe their responsibilities during the discharge or the response thereto.
 - c. Provide copies of all documents or reports prepared by federal, state, tribal, and/or local agencies regarding the discharge.
23. Describe any fines assessed in conjunction with the discharge by any governmental entity. Identify the agency, amount of the fines, and the dates assessed, and provide all documents related to such assessment.
24. Describe any previous discharges from the Facility within the past five years.
- a. State the type of all oil or other pollutant discharged, including the chemical name, formula, and specific gravity. If the material discharged was a mixture, specify the percentages of oil or other pollutant in the mixture or solution. Use this format:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Oil or pollutant</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Waterway Affected/Threatened</u>	<u>Cause</u>
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- b. Describe any measures, taken to prevent or mitigate future discharges from the Facility following the spills or discharges listed above, and provide all documents related to such measures.
25. State the total above ground oil storage capacity and the total underground oil storage capacity at each Facility. For the well blowout that is the subject of NRC Report No. 1102065, state the total above ground oil storage capacity and the total underground oil storage capacity at the tank battery associated with that well. State capacity, not actual amounts stored at any one point in time.
26. Does the Facility have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan? If so, provide a copy of the current SPCC Plan and the SPCC Plan in place at the time of the discharge, if different. Include the entire SPCC plan. For the well blowout that is the subject of NRC Report No. 1102065, provide this information for the tank battery associated with that well.
27. If the Facility has also submitted a Facility Response Plan (FRP) to the EPA, provide the FRP number and the date it was submitted to the EPA. For the well blowout that is the subject of NRC Report No. 1102065, provide this information for the tank battery associated with that well.
28. List any applicable EPA, State, County or local governmental identification or permit numbers for the Facility (i.e., NPDES, RCRA, etc.), using the following format.
- | <u>Number</u> | <u>Facility/Unit Assigned To</u> | <u>Issuing Agency</u> | <u>Date Issued</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
29. Provide any additional pertinent information, reports, photographs, etc. that you have related to the discharge and the Facility. Please submit color photographs, or color photocopies of photos. If you have any of the following documentation in your possession, submit copies.
- a. USGS topographic maps (of the Facility and of the discharge),
 - b. Geographic Information System maps or data,
 - c. Aerial photography, both current and historical,
 - d. Hydrologic flow and fate or transport models,
 - e. Wetland and stream functional models,
 - f. Stream profiles and culvert sizes,
 - g. Stream gauge data,
 - h. Precipitation records.
30. Identify the persons who were consulted regarding the response to this RFI and provide their relationships to the owner or operator of the Facility.

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

I certify under the penalty of law, that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments, and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining this information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title and Name of Company



U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

Small Business Programs

www.epa.gov/smallbusiness
EPA's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) advocates and fosters opportunities for direct and indirect partnerships, contracts, and sub-agreements for small businesses and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman

www.epa.gov/sbo or 1-800-368-5888
The EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

www2.epa.gov/compliance
This page is a gateway industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers

www.assistancecenters.net
EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

Agriculture

www.epa.gov/agriculture/

Automotive Recycling

www.ecarcenter.org

Automotive Service and Repair
ccar-greenlink.org/ or 1-888-GRN-LINK

Chemical Manufacturing
www.chemalliance.org

Construction
www.cicacenter.org or 1-734-995-4911

Education
www.campuserc.org

Food Processing
www.fpeac.org

Healthcare
www.hercenter.org

Local Government
www.lgean.org

Metal Finishing
www.nmfrc.org

Paints and Coatings
www.paintcenter.org

Printing
www.pneac.org

Ports
www.portcompliance.org

Transportation
www.tercenter.org

U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues
www.bordercenter.org

EPA Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

www2.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines
EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Some examples are:

Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line
www.epa.gov/ttn/catc or 1-919-541-0800

Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP and Oil Information Center
www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/index.htm or 1-800-424-9346

EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline
www.epa.gov/otaq/imports or 734-214-4100

National Pesticide Information Center
www.npic.orst.edu/ or 1-800-858-7378

National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - www.nrc.uscg.mil or 1-800-424-8802

Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) - www.epa.gov/opptintr/ppic or 1-202-566-0799

Safe Drinking Water Hotline - www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm or 1-800-426-4791

Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline

www.epa.gov/ozone/comments.htm or 1-800-296-1996

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

tsc hotline@epa.gov or 1-202-554-1404

Small Entity Compliance Guides

<http://www.epa.gov/sbrefa/compliance-guides.html>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

Regional Small Business Liaisons

<http://www.epa.gov/sbo/rsbl.htm>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

State Resource Locators

www.envcap.org/statetools

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

www.epa.gov/sbo/507program.htm

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

EPA's Tribal Portal

www.epa.gov/tribalportal/

The Portal provides access to information on environmental issues, laws, and resources related to federally recognized tribes.

EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement

This Policy offers small businesses special incentives to come into compliance voluntarily.

EPA's Audit Policy

www2.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy

The Policy provides incentives to all businesses that voluntarily discover, promptly disclose and expeditiously correct their noncompliance.

Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.